GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:90
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
STREAMLINING PDS
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to streamline the Public DistributionSystem in drought and flood prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which success has been achieved by the Government after taking steps to streamline the Public Distribution System in the said areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.90 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 2 2003 IN THE LOK SABHA.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of theCentral and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the Central godowns and the States are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of Ration Cards and their distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS).Regular reviews for the purpose of streamlining the PDS andinitiating corrective steps is an on going process, as part of which the following measures have been taken:-

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued by the Government ofIndia in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective andaccountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955,

(ii) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit,

(iii) The States and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees on the PDS at the State, District, Block and FPS levels,

(iv) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparentmanner, a model Citizens` Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

2. Further, a Task Force has been constituted to look into irregularities in the implementation of the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the identified areas, including in the drought affected States. The shortcomings/irregularities noticed by the Task Force Teams are forwarded to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for urgent remedial action.

3. To combat drought conditions, the allocations of foodgrains have also been made under the Special Component of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna (SGRY) which are in addition to thenormal allocations under the Public Distribution System. About 63.4 lakh MTs of foodgrains were allocated to 15 drought affected States under the Special Component of the SGRY in 2002-03; 41.5 lakh MTs of foodgrains have, so far, been allocated in the current year 2003-04.